



STATE ADMINISTRATION

Exhibit No. 3  
Date 2-7-07  
Bill No. SB-96

February 7, 2007

TO: Chairwoman Squires and Members of the Senate State Administration Committee

FROM: Joy Bruck, Volunteer Advocate, AARP Montana

**RE: Support of SB 96, Revise initiative and referendum process**

Madame Chair and members of the committee, my name is Joy Bruck, volunteer advocate for AARP Montana. AARP Montana is strictly non-partisan and does not endorse, support or oppose specific candidates. However, we do take part in ballot issue campaigns. We believe strongly in grassroots voter movements and education. We know that our members vote and actively participate in every aspect of elections and issue campaigns. That is why we strongly support all provisions of SB 96 and thank the Attorney General, the Secretary of State and the sponsor for bringing this bill.

Senate Bill 96 puts into place necessary protections and streamlines regulations so the initiative and referendum process is safeguarded from abuse. First, we solidly support requiring signature gatherers to be Montana residents that are restricted from being paid per signature. Montana is not alone in recognizing the temptation for fraud that results in a paid by signature system. Especially by signature gatherers who have no ties to Montana and will not have to live under the new laws they are helping to create.

Second, we support the Attorney General and Secretary of State's proposal to streamline the system and restructure timelines for maximum efficiency and input. We also support the move to uniformity of ballot issue language that appears on each voter's ballot.

Finally, because the initiative and referendum process is the only way to amend our Constitution, we ask that you listen to supporters of these proposals who represent a wide array of constituency groups that are asking for your support. Again, we hope you give your support to Senate Bill 96.